

but it is high time to take it up with them. Otherwise, it will be too late. The Assam Press, the newspapers and the lobby which is with China, they are all telling that it is coming. So, it is enough for the Minister to take up with the Chinese Ambassador here. Otherwise, it may be too late, because this act of China will create a very serious geographical and other changes in the whole of Assam because the Brahmaputra runs from Arunachal Pradesh up to Guwahati and then it runs over other places. The Minister should not take it as an issue where he does not have any confirmed news. We know that our sources of getting confirmed news is also very poor. So, I would request the Minister to take care of that and not to stand on prestige or be afraid of asking. There is nothing wrong. In diplomacy, we can always ask whether it is correct or not. If it is correct, the Minister should take some action and should not leave it at that stage. This is my point of view.

MR. SPEAKER : This is only a point of view. I do not think there is any question here and I do not think you have to reply.

MR. SPEAKER : Qn. No.352 - Shri G. Venkat Swamy
Absent.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Rabies Control Programme

*342. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Deaths due to rabies on the rise" as reported in *Statesman* dated November 4, 1996;

(b) if so, whether in the absence of comprehensive rabies control programme, the mortality rate, has been increasing;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to formulate any policy to check deaths due to rabies, and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no reliable data to indicate that the mortality rate due to rabies has been increasing. As a rabies control measure, the State Governments in the normal course are procuring their requirements of rabies vaccines from various vaccine production centres.

(c) and (d). Recently, a decision has been taken to start sensitising public representatives, the media and the public about the need for compulsory licensing of dogs, supported by vaccinations and the reduction of the stray dog population in a humane manner as adopted in other countries. The effort is to involve all states in the exercise. The production of anti-rabies vaccine has also been reviewed recently and efforts have been intensified to produce tissue culture based vaccines within the country.

Guidelines for Private Sector

*343. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued any fresh guidelines to attract private sector investment for developing ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the response of the private sector companies to Government's invitation in this regard; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred so far on modernisation and development of ports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has issued clear and transparent guidelines for private sector participation in ports in the following areas :-

(1) Leasing out existing assets of the port.

(2) Construction/Creation of additional assets, such as:-

(i) Construction and operation of container terminals.

(ii) Construction and operation of bulk, break bulk, multipurpose and specialised cargo berths.

(iii) Warehousing, Container Freight Stations, Storage facilities and tank farms.

(iv) Craneage/Handling Equipment.

(v) Setting up of captive power plants.

(vi) Dry docking and ship repair facilities.

(3) Leasing of equipment for port handling and leasing of floating crafts from the private sector.